

REMARKS

Claims 50, 51, 53, 55-66, 68-78, 80-91 and 93-97 are presently pending. Claims 50, 53, 63, 65, 75-78, 87 and 89-91 have been amended. Claims 52, 54, 67, 79, 92 and 98-103 have been newly canceled. Claims 1-49 were canceled previously.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 54, 67, 79 and 92 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the claims from which they depend.

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application in view of the remarks appearing below.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner has rejected claims 50-53, 55-66, 68-78, 80-91 and 93-103 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in view of various combinations of the following references: U.S. Patent No. 6,499,026 to Rivette et al.; U.S. Patent No. 6,278,917 to Paulsen, Jr. et al.; U.S. Patent No. 6,728,752 to Chen et al.; U.S. Patent No. 6,457,009 to Bollay; U.S. Patent No. 6,499,026 to Hunter et al.; U.S. Patent No. 6,728,693 to Lautenheiser et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,154,720 to Onishi et al.

In order to facilitate the expedient passage of this application to allowance, and without conceding that the rejections in the present Office Action are proper, Applicants have: amended independent claim 50 so that claims 50, 51, 53 and 55-62 include the limitations of allowable claim 54; amended independent claim 63 so that claims 63-66 and 68-74 include the limitation of allowable claim 67; amended independent claim 75 so that claims 75-78 and 80-86 include the limitation of allowable claim 79; amended independent claim 87 so that claims 87-91 and 93-97 include the limitation of allowable claim 92; canceled claims 52, 54, 67, 79 and 92 in connection with the preceding amendments; and canceled claims 98-103.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all of the rejections made under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

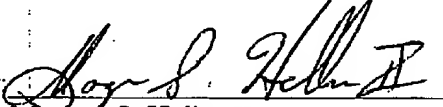
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 50, 51, 53, 55-66, 68-78, 80-91 and 93-97, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Therefore, prompt issuance

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of a Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. If any issues remain, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Morgan S. Heller II

Registration No.: 44,756

Down Rachlin Martin PLLC

Tel: (802) 863-2375

Attorneys for Applicants

BTV.479781.1

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